OFFICE OF THE PUBLICITY OFFICER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE, PUBLIC OFFICES, BANGALORE.

No. P. 57—40-41, dated 13th November, 1940.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

Further to *Press Communiques* Nos. P. 15, dated 26th July 1940 and P. 40, dated 22nd October 1940, regarding the supply of Binoculars, Compasses and Revolvers for the Defence Services, the following appeal by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India is published for general information :—

Large numbers of binoculars, compasses and revolvers are needed by the armed forces. We are doing all we can to make them in India, but it takes time to start production, and meanwhile we do not want to ask for more help from the United Kingdom than is absolutely necessary.

There must be many people in India who have binoculars, prismatic compasses, and revolvers which they seldom use. I am therefore appealing to all such people to send these weapons or instruments as a gift to the defence forces. I shall be deeply grateful for such gifts, and they will be a direct help to India in her war effort.

(Sd.) R. A. Cassels,
General.

Parcels should be delivered to the nearest Ordnance establishment or to the Ordnance Officer at the nearest Command or District Headquarters or despatched by registered post to the authorities mentioned below :—

Binoculars, compasses.—To the Chief Ordnance Officer, Arsenal, Rawalpindi.

Revolvers (which should also be insured).—To the Chief Ordnance Officer, Arsenal, Ferozepore.

Persons in Simla and Delhi should send their parcels to the Master General of Ordnance in India, Army Headquarters, New Delhi.

Explanatory Press Note for issue with the foregoing.

The requirements of a mechanized war, such as that upon which India is now engaged, render necessary an unprecedented supply of all types of instruments of military equipment. It is, more perhaps than any previous war, a war of personal and individual initiative, where the subordinate must be prepared and must be equipped to act on his own. Every subordinate Commander, therefore, and even the rank and file, must be able to use the modern scientific equipment of war and must often be supplied with it. Requirements of such equipment as binoculars, compasses and revolvers must accordingly be very large.

Such equipment is normally made in, and must be obtained from, Great Britain. India has already launched on the manufacture of compasses and steps are being taken to inaugurate production of binoculars. But such manufacture requires not merely a supply of accurate tools but also cadres of personnel even more highly trained than is necessary for most industrial processes. It will, therefore, be some time before India's domestic production can begin to satisfy her requirements. Meanwhile, it is desirable for many reasons to restrict to the minimum India's demands on Great Britain, both to prevent any unnecessary drain on British sources and to avoid the necessity of reducing India's import quota in other equally vital directions. It is equally undesirable to make unnecessary demands on other countries for such demands entail using up foreign exchange to pay for them.

The Government of India, therefore, appeal for the surrender to the Forces of any binoculars, compasses or revolvers not urgently required for civilian purposes. Provided the instruments are serviceable, it is not necessary that they should be of the latest type or of British manufacture. The type of revolver desired is that most generally in use in India, the '45 calibre pistol. It is hoped that any donations which may be made will be sent without delay. Parcels should, for safety's sake, be registered and despatched as follows :—

Binoculars, compasses ...	To the Chief Ordnance Officer, Arsenal, Rawalpindi.
Revolvers (which should also be insured) ...	To the Chief Ordnance Officer, Arsenal, Ferozepore.

If convenient, parcels could also be delivered to the nearest Ordnance establishment or to the Ordnance Officer at the nearest Command or District Headquarters.

Persons residing in Mysore State may send their arms to the Residency (addressed to the Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore, Bangalore), for transmission to the Ferozepore Arsenal.

S. RANGA IYER,
Publicity Officer to Government

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